etc. Introduction of on foot and mobile patrolling, posting of guards at vulnerable points, surveillance by plain cloth staff and surprise checking at entry and exit points are some of the measures which have been taken by the port to strengthen the security.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. During the last financial year i.e. 1994-95, the port handled 10.12 million tonnes of cargo as against 8.33 million tonnes handled during the year 1993-94, thereby recording a positive variation of approx. 21.5 percent. This shows that the port users had been showing a preference for this port. To improve the efficiency and productivity is a constant endeavour of the port.

Upgradation of State roads in Orissa to National Highways

8125. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the upgradation of some State roads in Orissa to the level of national highways during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the state roads identified therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Owing to meagre allocation of funds for National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan, it is difficult to declare any new National Highway at this stage.

Milease covered by Surface Transport

8126. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total mileage of the country covered by surface transport as on date;

(b) how many miles are yet to be covered by the surface transport;

(c) what steps have been taken to cover the entire length and breadth of India;

(d) what is the estimated cost in this regard; and

(e) what is the allotment for this purpose in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government of India (viz. the Ministry of Surface Transport) is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. As regards National Highways, the total length of National Highway network in the country at present is 34,058 km.

(b) The addition to the National Highway network is a continuous process and the additions to the network are done keeping in view various factors including the availability of resources.

(c) One of the criteria for declaring any road as National Highway is that the road runs through the length and breadth of the country. As such this aspect is taken care of while declaring any road as a National Highway.

(d) and (e) The overall budget allocation for the development of National Highways includes the provision for the amount required for upgradation of State roads as National Highway network. There is no separate allocation made for this purpose in the budget.

Construction of a road bridge on River Yomuna in Allahabad

8127. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: